

said first cam operably arranged to permit positioning a rope between said first cam surface and said abutment surface and to provide that when tension is applied to said rope in one direction, said rope is seized between said cam surface and abutment surface by said cam rotating toward said abutment means and when tension is applied to said rope in an opposite direction, said rope is released from between said cam surface and and abutment surface permitting withdrawal of said rope;

a cover means for retaining said rope between said abutment surface and said cam surface when said cover means is in a retain position and for permitting engagement and withdrawal of said rope from between said abutment surface and said cam surface when said cover means is in a release position.

8. The rope cleat of claim 1 further comprising:

a second cam mounted on another end of said spindle and operably arranged for rotation between said retain and release positions;

said second cam having a second cam surface perpendicular to said base surface and convex toward said abutment surface; and

said second cam surface operably arranged to permit positioning a rope between said second cam surface and said abutment surface providing that when tension is applied to said rope in one direction, said rope is seized between said second cam surface and abutment surface by said cam rotating toward said abutment means; and when tension is applied to said rope in an opposite direction, said rope is seized by said first cam

9. The rope cleat of claim 5 further comprising spring means having one spring end abutting said first cam and a second spring end abutting said second cam operably arranged to bias said first cam surface toward said abutment means and said second cam surface toward said abutment means;

means for manually rotating said first and second cams away from said abutment means.

11. The rope cleat of claim 1 wherein:

said abutment means is a plurality of [:]abutments, each having an abutment surface;

a plurality of cams;

a plurality of spindles mounted on said base surface;

each abutment surface facing at least one of said cams rotatably mounted on one of said spindles, respectively.

14.. A rope cleat comprising:

a base having a base surface;

a first rope abutment mounted on said base surface and having a first abutment surface perpendicular to said base surface;

a second rope abutment mounted on said base surface and having a second abutment surface perpendicular to said base surface;

a first spindle having one end mounted on said base surface and extending perpendicularly away from said base surface.

a first cam rotatably mounted on said first spindle;

said first cam having a first cam surface perpendicular to said base surface and convex toward said first abutment surface;

said first cam operably arranged to permit positioning a rope between said first cam surface and said first abutment surface and to provide that when tension is applied to said rope in one direction,

said rope is seized between said first cam surface and first abutment surface by said first cam rotating toward said first rope abutment and when tension is applied to said rope in an opposite direction, said rope is released from tension and can be removed from said cleat;

a second cam rotatably mounted on said first spindle;

said second cam having a second cam surface perpendicular to said base surface and convex toward said second abutment surface;

said second cam operably arranged to permit positioning a rope between said second cam surface and said second abutment surface and to provide that when tension is applied to said rope in one direction, said rope is seized between said second cam surface and second abutment surface by said second cam rotating toward said second rope abutment and

when tension is applied to said rope in an opposite direction, said rope is released from tension and can be removed from said cleat;

a second spindle having one end mounted on said base surface and extending perpendicularly away from said base surface;

said second spindle positioned to limit rotation of said first cam away from said first abutment and to limit rotation of said second cam away from said second abutment surface;

a spring positioned with one end abutting said first cam and another end abutting said second cam operably arranged to bias said first cam surface toward said first abutment surface and to bias said second cam surface toward said second abutment surface;

a first pedestal having one end secured to said base surface and extending perpendicularly away from said base surface;

a first cover slidably mounted on another end of said first pedestal and operably arranged to slide between a position where said rope is restrained from escaping from between said first abutment surface and said first cam surface by a first end of said first cover and a position where said rope is permitted to be engaged and withdrawn from between said first abutment surface and said first cam surface;

a second pedestal having one end secured to said base surface and extending perpendicularly away from said base surface;

a second cover slidably mounted on another end said second pedestal and operably arranged to slide between a position where said rope is restrained from escaping from between said second